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abandon it. The result of this system of land tenure and this organization of society is to segregate the whole population in villages, and to leave all of the intervening land unsettled."

Either Mr. Ferris does not fully understand the "George Theory" or he failed to notice that in the above extract from Mr. Kennan there is lacking one of the essential elements of Mr. George's plan, *i. e.*, the occupant of land shall retain undisturbed possession, so long as he complies with the conditions prescribed by the law in the case. Under such conditions as Mr. Kennan notices, no one would care to improve property; under the George theory improvements would be encouraged.

EDWARD QUINCY NORTON.

## VIII.

### THE DEATH INSTINCT IN ANIMALS.

IN a recent number of the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW the question is suggested whether animals are subject to premonitions of death.

Years ago I was staying at a farm-house where it was the custom every evening to drive a small herd of cows from the pasture to a lot near the barn. It was decided one day to kill one of the number, a yearling, whose mother also belonged to the herd. The calf was accordingly left in the lot, while the rest were driven as usual to the pasture. No sooner had the butcher slain his victim than there could be distinctly heard from the pasture, half a mile away, the mournful lowing of the mother, the other cows occasionally joining in what could be described only as a wail. The circumstance interested me very much, and I walked over to the pasture. Through thirty years that pathetic picture of maternal grief has remained with me! It seemed to me that there was the actual sobbing of a bursting heart, and to my childish eyes there were tears moistening the face of the poor, gentle, sorrowful creature before me.

Years afterward my children had a pet cat which it was discovered had now and then violent convulsions. We asked a young lad to shoot her. I went with him into the garden where Puss lay on the grass in the sunshine; the lad walked behind me with a parlor rifle. She was always gentle and rarely shunned any one, but so soon as she saw me she stretched herself backward with a most unearthly cry and looked straight into the mouth of the weapon which ended her life.

We owned also a magnificent St. Bernard dog which became in time a wonder to many in the way of what I must call mental development. He was accustomed, summer and winter, to come into the sitting-room after tea and lie for a while on a rug under the gaslight. At a given signal he would retire at once to the back yard. One night, however, he was reluctant to go—reluctant even to resistance. I coaxed, then forced him, and went to the door with him. He stood outside in a hesitating way, and as I closed the door turned and looked me full in the face with an intense expression of mingled reproach and affection which communicated to me an inexplicable sense of foreboding ill, and the remembrance of which still brings a pang to my heart. When the door closed I heard him leap over the low front gate, and we never saw him again. Some boys out hunting on the following day became frightened at meeting him in the woods, and shot him.

L. H. CRAIG.

## IX.

### THE TRACKS OF A GOD.

Two travelers in Asia, as the story is related, lost the camel which they used for carrying burdens. Meeting a native they inquired if he had seen a stray camel

that day. He replied that he had not, but asked them: "Was your camel lame in the left leg behind?" "She was," replied the travelers. "Did she have one tooth out in front?" continued the native. "She had," was the prompt response. "Was she loaded on the left side with honey?" "She was." "And on the right side with bread?" "That is our camel," said the travelers, "tell us where she is." "I know not," said the native, "nor have I any information from any one concerning her, but that camel was in the road a short distance below here to-day."

The travelers believing it impossible for any man to have such accurate knowledge of what he had not seen, procured his arrest on the charge of theft. A don on his trial the Arab offered in his defense this explanation: "I knew a camel had been there that day, because I saw fresh tracks of a camel crossing the road; and that it must have been lame in its left leg behind, for it made only a slight impression in the sand with that foot; that it was minus a tooth in front, for I saw where it had picked grass by the roadside, and a blade or two were left standing in the midst of each bite taken; that it was loaded on the left side with honey, for I could see the bees swarming among the leaves of the bushes on that side of the road where it had passed; and that it was loaded on the right side with bread, for there were the little busy ants carrying away the crumbs on that side of its way."

The Arab was acquitted, and the Court, in giving his opinion, observed, that "the wise, by exercising the power of reason which they have, are often accredited by many with possessing knowledge which belongs to none."

The Arab knew that a camel had crossed the road, because nothing but a camel could have made the track which he saw in the sand, and the induction is equally plain and easy, from nature to a God.

Because God is past finding out, and his origin inexplicable, is not sufficient to cover the deceit of those who boldly pretend to discard even the knowledge which they have, and which meets their vision wherever they turn their eyes, whether to things small or great.

He cannot deny the God which the sun in his rising and setting discloses, because he argues with plausibility that the Jehovah of Mount Horeb is a myth.

He may indulge, if he pleases, the task to persuade that immortality is no more than a hope, but he reveals his own insincerity when he asserts that no greater being than man exists.

He may fancy that water in the sun will generate a tadpole, and raise up man through the various stages of existence, but he cannot account for the plan of procreation among animals, nor for the bringing forth fruit after its kind in the vegetable kingdom. In that grand work he sees the great I Am who has been acknowledged and revered by all ages.

It is possible for him to denounce Christ as an impostor, and his religion as a fiction; but he cannot meditate upon the rolling of the planets and the innumerable heavenly bodies, the going and return of the seasons, night and day, the winds, rain and sunshine in due season, and the whole as having continued without interruption for ages upon ages, without feeling, stifle it as he may, that there is a creator who lives and is eternal.

T. C. SENSABAUGH.

## X.

### CAPITAL PUNISHMENT.

It is noteworthy that the most populous and richest, and possibly the wickedest, State in the Union is the first to inaugurate a scientific method in the execu-